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Commission on the Status of Women

Report on the fifty-first session (26 February-9 March 2007)

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Note

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures.

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Chapter I

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

A. Agreed conclusions on the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child

1. The following agreed conclusions adopted by the Commission are brought to the attention of the Council for transmittal for information to the review session to take place in 2007 on the outcome document entitled "A world fit for children", adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-seventh special session.

Elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child*

1. The Commission on the Status of Women reaffirms the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly and the declaration adopted by the Commission on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women.

2. The Commission also reaffirms the outcome of the 2002 World Summit on Children and the international commitments to gender equality and the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child made at the World Conference on Human Rights, the International Conference on Population and Development, the World Summit for Social Development and the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, as well as those made in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and at the 2005 World Summit, and reaffirms further that their full and effective and accelerated implementation are integral to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

3. The Commission reiterates that the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and its Optional Protocol and the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols, as well as other conventions and treaties, provide a legal framework and a comprehensive set of measures for the promotion and protection of the human rights of the girl child, including for the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against her. In this regard, the Commission welcomes the adoption in December 2006 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

4. The Commission reaffirms the commitment to the full and effective implementation of, and follow-up to, all relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies on the girl child, its previous set of agreed conclusions on the girl child, as well as Security Council resolutions 1325 and 1612.

5. The Commission welcomes the June 2006 Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS, which expressed grave concern for the overall expansion and

* For the discussion, see chap. II, paras. 17-26.

feminization of the HIV pandemic and recognized that gender inequalities and all forms of violence against women and girls increased their vulnerability to HIV/AIDS.

6. The Commission reaffirms the commitment to ensure the full implementation of the human rights of women and of the girl child as an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of all human rights and fundamental freedoms.

7. The Commission is profoundly concerned that previous goals and targets and commitments, including financial commitments, made with regard to the girl child remain unfulfilled and that, despite progress in addressing all forms of discrimination and violence against girls and recognition of their rights, discrimination and violations of their human rights still persist.

8. The Commission recognizes that the empowerment of girls is key to breaking the cycle of discrimination and violence and to promoting and protecting the full and effective enjoyment of all their human rights. It also recognizes that empowering girls requires the active support and engagement of their parents, legal guardians, families, boys and men, as well as the wider community.

9. The Commission also recognizes that the difficult socio-economic conditions that exist in many developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, have resulted in the acceleration of the feminization of poverty and that in situations of poverty girl children are among those most affected. In this regard, the Commission stresses that achieving the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 and all other agreed development goals is a global effort and an essential element in improving the situation of girl children and ensuring their human rights. The Commission further recognizes that, as part of urgent national and international action required to eradicate poverty, investing in the development of girls is a priority in and of itself and has a multiplier effect, in particular on productivity, efficiency and sustained economic growth.

10. The Commission expresses concern that the girl child does not receive sufficiently explicit attention in policy and programme development and resource allocation. It is also concerned that the lack of resources and data disaggregated by sex, age and other relevant factors addressing the specific situation of vulnerable girls remains a serious constraint in formulating and implementing effective, targeted policies and programmes and monitoring progress in eliminating all forms of discrimination and violence.

11. The Commission notes with appreciation the United Nations study on violence against children and the Secretary-General's in-depth study on violence against women and takes into account their recommendations.

12. The Commission recognizes that prevailing negative sociocultural attitudes and gender stereotypes contribute to the de facto and de jure discrimination against the girl child and violations of the rights of the girl child.

13. The Commission urges Governments to take the following actions:

Norms and policies

(a) Consider ratifying or acceding to, as a particular matter of priority, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and their respective Optional Protocols, limit the extent of any reservations that they lodge and regularly review such reservations with a view to withdrawing them so as to ensure that no reservation is incompatible with the object and purpose of the relevant treaty; and implement them fully by, inter alia, putting in place effective national legislation, policies and action plans;

(b) Consider ratifying or acceding to, as a matter of priority, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto, in particular the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children;

(c) Consider becoming a State Party to, as a matter of priority, and thereafter ensure the full implementation of International Labour Organization (ILO) Conventions 138 and 182 on, respectively, the minimum age for employment, and eliminating the worst forms of child labour, and establish appropriate penalties and sanctions to ensure effective enforcement;

(d) Intensify efforts to fully implement the Beijing Platform for Action, the outcome documents of the five-year review of the Beijing Platform for Action, the World Summit for Children and the Millennium Development Goals;

(e) Exercise leadership to end all forms of violence against girls and support advocacy in this regard at all levels, including at the local, national, regional and international levels, and by all sectors, especially by political, community and religious leaders, as well as the public and private sectors, the media and civil society;

(f) Review and, where appropriate, revise, amend or abolish all laws, regulations, policies, practices and customs that discriminate against women or the girl child or have a discriminatory impact on women or the girl child, and ensure that provisions of multiple legal systems, where they exist, comply with international human rights obligations, commitments and principles, including the principle of non-discrimination;

(g) Condemn all forms of discrimination and violence against girls and enact and/or strengthen legislation on preventing and eliminating all forms of discrimination and violence against girls, develop policies that ensure its full and effective implementation, and put in place adequate national and local mechanisms to monitor compliance with these laws and policies, with the active participation of civil society, where appropriate;

(h) Develop policies and programmes to sensitize magistrates, judges, lawyers, prosecutors and persons who work with victims, in order to ensure that judicial proceedings are adequate to the needs and the development of the girl child and that a gender perspective is applied to such proceedings;

(i) Exercise due diligence to prevent all forms of violence against girls, and investigate and punish the perpetrators of such violence and provide protection to the victims;

(j) Create, where not currently in place, and maintain birth, death and marriage data registries with full national coverage;

(k) Review, enact and strictly enforce laws and regulations concerning the minimum legal age of consent and the minimum age for marriage, raising the minimum age for marriage where necessary, and generate social support for the enforcement of these laws, inter alia, through increasing educational opportunities for girls and advocating the benefits of keeping girls in schools;

(l) Give explicit attention to the girl child in budget processes at all levels, including resource allocation and expenditure reviews, to ensure the mobilization of sufficient resources for the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against girls.

14. The Commission, taking into account the primary responsibility of Governments in the fight against all forms of discrimination, exploitation and violence against the girl child, urges Governments and/or the relevant funds and programmes, organs and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, and invites the international financial institutions and all relevant actors of civil society, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector, to:

14.1. Poverty

(a) Reduce social and economic inequalities, giving priority to approaches that focus on poverty eradication and improving linkages, participation and social networks within and between different community groups, thereby addressing economic, social and cultural rights and reducing the vulnerability of the girl child to discrimination and violence;

(b) Integrate a gender perspective, giving explicit attention to the girl child, in national development strategies, plans and policies, and provide support to developing countries in the implementation of these development strategies, policies and plans;

(c) Improve the situation of girl children living in poverty, deprived of nutrition, water and sanitation facilities, with no access to basic health-care services, shelter, education, participation and protection, taking into account that while a severe lack of goods and services hurts every human being, it is most threatening and harmful to the girl child, leaving her unable to enjoy her rights, to reach her full potential and to participate as a full member of society;

(d) Assess the impact of globalization, economic policies and the constraints of the international trade system on the girl child and mainstream a gender perspective, giving explicit attention to the girl child, into all development policies and programmes and poverty eradication strategies, where appropriate;

14.2. Education and training

(a) Intensify their efforts to meet the target of eliminating gender inequalities in primary and secondary education by the earliest possible date and at all educational levels by 2015, including through the provision of Education for All partnerships;

(b) Collect data disaggregated by sex and age on dropout rates at all levels of education, and conduct research on the causes, including root causes of the discontinuation of education by girls;

(c) Ensure that all children, particularly girls, without discrimination on the basis of race, ethnicity or disability, have equal access to, and complete, free and compulsory primary education of good quality, and renew their efforts to improve and expand girls' education at all levels, including the secondary and higher levels, in all academic areas, as well as vocational education and technical training, in order to, inter alia, encourage women to enter the labour market and as a way of achieving gender equality, the empowerment of women and poverty eradication, and to allow women's full and equal contribution to, and equal opportunity to benefit from, development;

(d) Recognize the critical role of both formal and non-formal education in the achievement of poverty eradication and other development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and ensure access of women and girls to non-formal education, particularly for those who are dropouts and living in poverty, with the aim to equip them with the necessary knowledge and prepare them to participate equally in decision-making in all spheres of life and at all levels;

(e) Identify constraints and gaps and develop appropriate strategies, in collaboration with parents and legal guardians, teachers and community leaders, to ensure gender equality, accelerated achievement of equality in enrolment and completion of schooling at the early childhood, primary and all other educational levels for all girls, including pregnant adolescents and young mothers, especially in neglected and marginalized areas and communities and rural and remote areas, and introduce, where appropriate, temporary special measures, including financial incentives and stipends and nutrition programmes in order to improve enrolment and retention rates for girls at all educational levels;

(f) Promote gender-sensitive, empowering educational and training processes and teaching materials by, inter alia, reviewing and revising, as appropriate, school curricula, formal and non-formal educational and training materials and teacher-training programmes, including for those dealing with career orientation, and encourage and support girls' and boys' interest and involvement in non-traditional fields and occupations;

(g) Ensure safe and supportive school environments for girls and girl-friendly school premises by implementing measures to eliminate discrimination and violence against girls and specific measures against sexual harassment at school, achieving gender balance at all levels in the education sector, providing appropriate sanitation and recreational facilities, boarding facilities, and school transport, where appropriate, and securing safe routes to and from school;

(h) Develop well-resourced educational and livelihood skills programmes to reach girls who are not enrolled in formal education programmes owing to specific life circumstances, inter alia, extreme poverty, child labour, abuse or exploitation, trafficking, prostitution, armed conflict and displacement, migration, early and forced marriage, pregnancy, motherhood and disability;

(i) Ensure girls' access to training that enables them to develop their skills, capacities and expertise to exercise leadership, including tools, training and special programmes necessary to become actors in public life, including at the highest levels, addressing existing power differentials in society and the need for different positive models of leadership;

(j) Ensure that young women and men have access to information and education, including peer education, youth-specific HIV education and sexual education and services necessary for behavioural change, to develop the life skills required to reduce their vulnerability to HIV infection and reproductive ill health, in full partnership with young persons, parents, families, educators and health-care providers;

(k) Ensure that the rights of the girl child are fully integrated into all peace and non-violence education, including on peacemaking, peacekeeping and peacebuilding, which should be provided from the primary level on as a means of instructing girls and boys in the prevention, resolution and management of conflicts at the interpersonal, community, national and international levels;

(l) Increase girls' ability to attend school and extra-curricular activities by investing in public infrastructure projects and quality public services, such as transport, water, sanitation and sustainable energy, in order to reduce the amount of time girls spend on everyday routine household maintenance tasks, while also working to change attitudes that reinforce the division of labour based on gender, in order to promote shared family responsibility for work in the home and reduce the domestic work burden for girls;

(m) Promote and support increased access of girls to information and communications technology (ICT), particularly girls living in poverty, girls living in rural and remote areas and in disadvantaged situations, and enhance international support to overcome the digital divide among countries and regions, between men and women and boys and girls, as well as between different social groups of women and girls;

(n) Create literate environments and societies, eradicating illiteracy among women and girls and eliminating the gender gap in literacy, inter alia, by intensifying efforts to implement effectively the International Plan of Action for the United Nations Literacy Decade and integrating substantially those efforts in the Education for All process and other activities of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), as well as other literacy initiatives within the framework of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

(o) Allocate sufficient resources and provide technical assistance upon request to developing countries in order to strengthen the capacity to provide equal access to education and to monitor progress in closing the gap between

girls and boys in education, training and research, and in levels of achievement in all fields, particularly basic education and literacy programmes;

14.3. Gender stereotypes

(a) Recognize that eliminating stereotypes calls for a deep societal change that needs to be supported through the development of strategies to eliminate gender stereotypes in all spheres of life, and foster the positive portrayal of women and girls at all levels, including as leaders and decision makers, including through developing and implementing appropriate legislation, policies and programmes, as well as awareness campaigns, to address stereotypical attitudes and behaviours that contribute to discrimination and violence against girls;

(b) Target and work with men and boys, as well as women and girls and other actors, such as parents, teachers, religious and traditional leaders and educational and media institutions, to address stereotypical attitudes and behaviours, and encourage decision makers at all levels with responsibilities for policies, legislation, programmes and allocation of public resources to play leadership roles in the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against girls and in the promotion of girls empowerment;

(c) Ensure that men and women, and boys and girls are educated on girls' rights and their responsibility to respect the rights of others, inter alia, by integrating girls' rights into appropriate curricula at all levels, including in schools and the vocational training of health workers, teachers, law enforcement personnel, military personnel, social workers, the judiciary, community leaders, the media and others and encourage men and boys to speak out strongly against all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls and not to protect perpetrators or condone their violence;

(d) Promote non-discriminatory treatment of girls and boys in the family and, in this regard, adopt measures to ensure equal access by girls and boys to food, education and health, and develop programmes and policies addressed to family members, especially parents and other legal guardians, to protect and promote the health and well-being of girls, as well as to ensure that the value of girls to their families and societies is recognized, including with a view to eliminating son preference;

(e) Encourage cooperation and dialogue between Governments and all relevant actors so that media contents, including the portrayal of gender stereotypes, prejudices and violence, are reviewed, consistent with freedom of expression, and that the quality of programmes broadcast can be improved;

(f) Encourage the active participation of boys, from an early age, in the elimination of discrimination and violence against girls, including through the promotion of gender-sensitive socialization processes, targeted programmes and creation of spaces and environments where boys and girls can be guided in challenging gender stereotypes and negative attitudes towards girls;

14.4. Health

(a) Take all necessary measures to ensure the rights of girls to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health, and develop sustainable

health systems and social services, ensuring access to such systems and services without discrimination, paying special attention to adequate food and nutrition and the effects of communicable diseases and to the special needs of adolescents, including raising awareness about eating disorders, and to sexual and reproductive health, and securing appropriate prenatal and post-natal care, including measures to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV;

(b) Ensure the availability of and access to comprehensive age-appropriate information, education and confidential counselling for girls and boys, including in school curricula, on human relationships, and sexual and reproductive health, sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS, and the prevention of early pregnancy, that emphasize the equal rights and responsibility of girls and boys;

(c) Develop, implement and support national and international prevention, care and treatment strategies, as appropriate, to effectively address the condition of obstetric fistula and to further develop a multisectoral, multidisciplinary, comprehensive and integrated approach in order to bring about lasting solutions and put an end to obstetric fistula, maternal mortality and related morbidities, including through ensuring access to affordable, comprehensive, quality maternal health-care services, including skilled birth attendance and emergency obstetric care;

(d) Develop and implement national legislation and policies prohibiting harmful customary or traditional practices, particularly female genital mutilation, that are violations of and obstacles to the full enjoyment by women of their human rights and fundamental freedoms, and prosecute the perpetrators of such practices that are harmful to the health of women and girls;

14.5. HIV/AIDS

(a) Ensure that in all policies and programmes designed to provide comprehensive HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support, particular attention and support is given to the girl child at risk, infected with, and affected by HIV/AIDS, including pregnant girls and young and adolescent mothers, as part of the global effort to scale up significantly towards the goal of universal access to comprehensive prevention, treatment, care and support by 2010;

(b) Provide appropriate information to help young women, including adolescent girls, understand their sexuality, including their sexual and reproductive health, in order to increase their ability to protect themselves from HIV infection and sexually transmitted infections and unwanted pregnancy;

(c) Educate men and boys to accept their role and responsibility in the spreading of HIV/AIDS and in matters related to sexuality, reproduction and child-rearing and to promote equality between women and men, girls and boys;

(d) Address the underlying and root causes of the feminization of HIV/AIDS, and take appropriate measures to provide a supportive and socially inclusive environment for girls infected with, and affected by, HIV/AIDS,

including by providing appropriate counselling and psychosocial support, ensuring their enrolment in school and equal access to shelter, nutrition, health and social services and taking effective measures to eliminate stigmatization, discrimination, violence, exploitation and abuse on the basis of HIV or AIDS status;

(e) Identify and address the needs of girls heading households, including in the context of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, for, inter alia, protection, access to financial resources, access to health care and support services, including affordable HIV/AIDS treatment, and for opportunities to continue their education, with particular attention to orphans and vulnerable children, and increase men's responsibility for home-based care in order to address the disproportionate burden borne by women and girls in caring for the chronically ill;

(f) Increase global efforts to overcome any legal, regulatory, trade and other barriers that block access to prevention, treatment, care and support, and allocate adequate resources;

(g) Promote initiatives aimed at reducing the prices of antiretroviral drugs, especially second-line drugs, available to the girl child, including bilateral and private sector initiatives, as well as initiatives on a voluntary basis by groups of States, based on innovative financing mechanisms that contribute to the mobilization of resources for social development, including those that aim to provide further access to drugs at affordable prices to developing countries on a sustainable and predictable basis, and in this regard, take note of the International Drug Purchase Facility;

14.6. Child labour

(a) Ensure that the applicable ILO requirements for the employment of girls and boys are respected and effectively enforced, and ensure also that girls who are employed have equal access to decent work, equal payment and remuneration and are protected from economic exploitation, discrimination, sexual harassment, violence and abuse in the workplace, are aware of their rights, and have access to formal and non-formal education, skills development, and vocational training, and develop gender-sensitive measures, including national action plans where appropriate, to eliminate the worst forms of child labour, including commercial sexual exploitation, slave-like practices, forced and bonded labour, trafficking, and hazardous forms of child labour;

(b) Raise government and public awareness as to the nature and scope of the special needs of girls, including migrant girls, employed as domestic workers and of those performing excessive domestic chores in their own households, and develop measures to prevent their labour and economic exploitation and sexual abuse, and ensure that they have access to education and vocational training, health services, food, shelter and recreation;

14.7. Armed conflict

(a) Take special measures for the protection of girls affected by armed conflict and by post-conflict situations and, in particular, protect them from sexually transmitted diseases, such as HIV/AIDS, gender-based violence,

including rape and sexual abuse, and sexual exploitation, torture, abduction and forced labour, paying special attention to refugee and displaced girls; and take into account the special needs of girls affected by unilateral measures not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations and by armed conflicts in the delivery of humanitarian assistance and disarmament, demobilization, rehabilitation assistance and reintegration processes, and that girls living under foreign occupation must also be protected in accordance with the provisions of international humanitarian law;

(b) Incorporate a gender perspective, including special attention to the girl child, in the mandates, operational guidelines and training programmes of peacekeeping forces, police, humanitarian workers and associated civilian personnel in armed conflict and post-conflict situations;

(c) Take appropriate measures to ensure that the specific needs of girls are addressed in all aspects of preventing the recruitment of children in armed groups and armed forces, and to facilitate their release and reintegration and secure the effective access of girls to dedicated programmes and services that respond to their specific needs for protection and assistance, and develop strategies to prevent future stigmatization and discrimination in their community and family and, in this regard, elaborate and implement applicable operational policies and frameworks based on good practices and lessons learned;

(d) Ensure that sufficient attention is given to the girl child in all frameworks and action plans addressing violations and abuses against children in armed conflict;

14.8. Humanitarian assistance to girls

Take measures to ensure that the specific needs of girls affected by armed conflict and natural disasters are taken into account in the delivery of humanitarian assistance and finding durable solutions, including in refugee camps and camps for the internally displaced and in reconstruction efforts, and ensure that such assistance is provided in full compliance with international law, and in accordance with General Assembly resolution 46/182 in the context of United Nations humanitarian assistance;

14.9. Violence and discrimination

(a) Condemn all forms of violence against girls and take effective legislative and other measures to prevent and eliminate all such violence, including physical, mental, psychological and sexual violence, torture, child abuse and exploitation, hostage-taking, domestic violence, trafficking in or sale of children and their organs, paedophilia, child prostitution, child pornography, child sex tourism, gang-related violence and harmful traditional practices in all settings;

(b) Take all appropriate measures to strengthen legal frameworks, including the review and amendment of existing legislation, the enactment of new laws where necessary, developing adequate programmes and formulating appropriate policies to prevent, prosecute and punish all cases of violence against girls, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation

of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life, and in particular physical, sexual, and psychological violence, wherever it occurs, within or outside the family;

(c) Provide age-appropriate and gender-sensitive services to girls subjected to all forms of gender-based violence, including comprehensive programmes for their physical, psychological and social recovery, such as health, counselling and legal services, helplines and shelters, and ensure adequate human, material and financial resources for these services;

(d) Condemn violence against women and girls and refrain from invoking any custom, tradition or religious consideration to avoid their obligations with respect to its elimination, and hold up to public scrutiny and eliminate those attitudes that foster, justify, or tolerate violence;

(e) Strengthen advocacy and rights-based awareness-raising programmes directed at eliminating all forms of violence and discrimination against girls by engaging girls and boys, parents and families, local community, political, religious and traditional leaders and educational institutions, and provide adequate financial support to efforts at both national and local levels to change behaviour, stereotyped attitudes and harmful practices;

(f) Create and support, as appropriate, community-based networks to advocate against all forms of violence against girls, develop programmes to sensitize and train health workers and other professionals working with and for the girl child to the issue, including on the early detection of violence, and integrate comprehensive measures and incentives that promote the full enjoyment of human rights and equality by the girl child into national development strategies;

(g) Encourage and support men and boys to take an active part in the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence, and encourage increased understanding among men and boys of how violence harms girls, boys, women and men and undermines gender equality;

(h) Eliminate all forms of discrimination against the girl child and the root causes of son preference, which results in harmful and unethical practices regarding female infanticide and prenatal sex selection, which may have significant repercussions on society as a whole;

(i) Review, strengthen or adopt legislation or policies to eradicate child pornography, including child pornography transmitted through the media and ICTs, and related forms of exploitation of children, and strengthen efforts to combat the existence of a market that encourages child pornography, including the prosecution of those who sexually exploit or abuse children;

(j) Develop and strengthen partnerships involving Governments, civil society, the media and business sectors and other relevant actors in the elimination of child pornography, including child pornography transmitted through the media and ICTs, in the protection of the girl child from related abuses and exploitation, and in training, inter alia, law enforcers, prosecutors, judges and social workers, as appropriate, in order to build effective capacities to eradicate child pornography;

(k) Ensure that follow-up to and implementation of relevant resolutions and, where appropriate, the relevant recommendations contained in the United Nations study on violence against children and the in-depth study on all forms of violence against women include explicit attention to girls at all levels;

(l) Increase education and training among teachers and health service providers in identifying acts of violence against the girl child, and ensure that they also take action to eradicate all forms of violence against the girl child, including customary and traditional practices that are harmful to the health of the girl child;

(m) Take measures to protect girls in juvenile detention facilities from all forms of physical, psychological or sexual violence and abuse and ensure that the detention or incarceration of girls shall be used only as a measure of last resort and for the shortest appropriate period of time;

14.10. Trafficking

(a) Take appropriate measures to ensure that all efforts aimed at combating trafficking in persons are gender- and child-sensitive, including in actions to address the factors that increase vulnerability to being trafficked, such as poverty and gender inequality, and to eliminate the demand that fosters all forms of exploitation of women and girls that leads to trafficking, and where girls are identified in situations of exploitation take all appropriate measures to remove them from harm and protect them without delay;

(b) Strengthen and improve international cooperation and coordination, including regional efforts in the fight against trafficking in persons, especially women and girls, in order to prevent trafficking; protect, assist, rehabilitate and reintegrate victims; and prosecute and punish offenders in accordance with due process of law on the basis of the principles of shared responsibility, respect for human rights and the active cooperation of countries of origin, transit and destination and other relevant actors thereto;

14.11. Girls in high-risk situations

Actively support girls vulnerable to all forms of discrimination and violence, including through the allocation of appropriate financial resources and targeted, innovative programmes that address the needs and priorities of girls in high-risk situations who have difficulties accessing services and programmes;

14.12. Migration

(a) Build awareness of the risks encountered by girls in the context of migration, particularly in the context of irregular migration, such as sexual and labour exploitation, migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons, and develop gender-sensitive migration policies and training programmes for law enforcement personnel, prosecutors and service providers that ensure the delivery of proper and professional interventions for girl migrants who are subjected to abuse and violence;

(b) Effectively promote and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of girl migrants, regardless of their immigration status, and facilitate

family reunification in an expeditious and effective manner, with due regard for applicable laws;

14.13. Empowering girls

(a) Promote people-centred sustainable development, including sustained economic growth, through the provision of basic education, lifelong education, literacy and training, and health care for all girls and women, and assist girls to secure economic independence, particularly girls heading households;

(b) Facilitate girls' empowerment, including through developing and adequately funding safe and supportive spaces, promoting mentoring and networking among women leaders and girls at all levels, peer education programmes, life skills programmes, and other gender-sensitive youth-friendly services, and provide enhanced opportunities for girls, particularly adolescent girls, to meet and interact with their peers and develop leadership capacities and networking opportunities;

(c) Invest in awareness campaigns, and provide education and training, including specialized training on violence, gender issues, discrimination and human rights, to parents and legal guardians, families, political, religious, traditional and community leaders, and all professions relevant to the protection and empowerment of girls, including educators, social workers, police officers, judges, lawyers, prosecutors and the media, to increase awareness and commitment to the promotion and protection of the rights of girls and appropriate responses to rights violations;

14.14. Participation of girls

(a) Respect and promote the right of girls to express themselves freely and to take the views of girls into account in all matters affecting them, including by taking all necessary actions to empower girls to exercise this right, according to their evolving capacity, and to build self-esteem and acquire knowledge and skills and provide them with adequate information on health, social and education services, programmes and initiatives to facilitate their participation in all sectors, including civil society;

(b) Involve girls, including girls with special needs, and their representative organizations, in decision-making processes, as appropriate, and include them as full and active partners in identifying their own needs and in developing, planning, implementing and assessing policies and programmes to meet these needs;

14.15. Gender mainstreaming

Mainstream a gender perspective, including special attention to the girl child, into all legislation, policies and programmes, and strengthen national monitoring and evaluation, inter alia, by utilizing gender budgeting and gender impact assessment, and compile and disseminate lessons learned and good practices;

14.16. Data collection

(a) Encourage and strengthen national research, monitoring and evaluation of the progress in eliminating all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child, in particular in areas where there is a dearth of information, including, as appropriate, through the development of reliable standardized methodology for the systematic collection, analysis and use in policy formulation of gender-specific data and statistics, disaggregated by sex, age and other relevant factors addressing the specific situation of vulnerable girls, and disseminate lessons learned and good practices;

(b) Conduct regular surveys of the situation and needs of girls at national and local levels to identify groups at high risk of discrimination and violence, ensuring that all data are disaggregated by age, education, marital status, geographical location, income and other relevant factors;

(c) Collect data disaggregated by age, sex and other relevant factors addressing the specific situation of vulnerable girls and systematically report on internationally agreed indicators related to the girl child as contained in the Millennium Development Goals, and support the development of additional indicators in consultation with the Statistical Commission, as appropriate, to more systematically and effectively measure national progress in eliminating all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child.

Treaty bodies

15. The Commission encourages the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, as well as the other human rights treaty bodies, to invite States parties to ensure that their reports explicitly address the situation of the girl child.

Implementation of commitments

16. The Commission calls on all States and the international community, including the United Nations system, and invites international and non-governmental organizations and the private sector to mobilize and allocate all necessary resources, support and efforts, including at the international level, to realize the goals, strategic objectives and actions set out in the Beijing Platform for Action with regard to the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child and the further actions and initiatives to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, as well as other relevant commitments.

17. The Commission reaffirms the commitment to adequate financial resources at the international level for the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, the Cairo Plan of Action and the Beijing+5 outcome document in developing countries, especially through the strengthening of their national capacities.

Support to the United Nations system

18. The Commission calls upon all organizations of the United Nations system, within their organizational mandates, to mainstream a gender perspective and to pursue gender equality in their country programmes,

planning instruments and sector-wide programmes, and to articulate specific country-level goals and targets in this field, in accordance with national development strategies.

19. The Commission calls on all States, and invites multilateral, financial and development institutions to support the entities of the United Nations system, especially its funds and programmes, to increase their efforts, including through, as appropriate, the United Nations country teams, to strengthen their country-level advocacy and their technical capacities to address all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child.

B. Draft resolution for adoption by the Council

2. The Commission on the Status of Women recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women*

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered with appreciation the report of the Secretary-General on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women,[1]

Recalling the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women,[2] in particular paragraph 260 concerning Palestinian women and children, the Beijing Platform for Action[3] adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women, and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[4]

Recalling also its resolution 2006/8 of 25 July 2006 and other relevant United Nations resolutions,

Recalling further the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women[5] as it concerns the protection of civilian populations,

Recalling the importance of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 57/337 of 3 July 2003, on the prevention of armed conflict, and Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000, on women and peace and security,

Expressing the urgent need for the full resumption of negotiations within the Middle East peace process on its agreed basis and towards the speedy achievement of a final settlement between the Palestinian and Israeli sides,

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* For the discussion, see chap. II, paras. 57-62.

[1] E/CN.6/2007/4.

[2] *Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A.

[3] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[4] General Assembly resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

[5] See General Assembly resolution 48/104.

Concerned about the grave situation of Palestinian women in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, resulting from the severe impact of ongoing illegal Israeli settlement activities and the unlawful construction of the wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, as well as the severe consequences arising from Israeli military operations in and sieges of civilian areas, which have impacted detrimentally their social and economic conditions and deepened the humanitarian crisis faced by them and their families,

Expressing the importance of providing assistance, especially emergency assistance, to alleviate the harmful impact of the financial crisis which has exacerbated the already dire socio-economic and humanitarian situation being faced by Palestinian women and their families,

Welcoming the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights,[6] issued on 31 August 2005, on the issue of Palestinian women giving birth at Israeli checkpoints owing to denial of access by Israel to hospitals, with a view to ending this practice,

Recalling the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice on the *Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory*[7] and recalling also General Assembly resolution ES-10/15 of 20 July 2004,

Recalling also the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[8] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights[8] and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[9] and affirming that these human rights instruments must be respected in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

Expressing its condemnation of all acts of violence, including all acts of terror, provocation, incitement and destruction, especially the excessive use of force against Palestinian civilians, many of them women and children, resulting in injury and loss of human life,

Emphasizing the importance of increasing the role of women in decision-making with regard to conflict prevention and resolution as part of efforts to ensure the safety and well-being of all women in the region,

1. *Calls upon* the concerned parties, as well as the international community, to exert all the necessary efforts to ensure the full resumption of the peace process on its agreed basis, taking into account the common ground already gained, and calls for intensified measures to be taken for tangible improvement of the difficult situation on the ground and the living conditions faced by Palestinian women and their families;

2. *Reaffirms* that the Israeli occupation remains a major obstacle for Palestinian women with regard to their advancement, self-reliance and integration in the development planning of their society, and encourages all women in the region to take an active role in supporting the peace process;

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[6] A/60/324.

[7] See A/ES-10/273 and Corr.1.

[8] General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[9] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

3. *Demands* that Israel, the occupying Power, comply fully with the provisions and principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[10] the Regulations annexed to The Hague Convention IV of 18 October 1907[11] and the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949,[12] in order to protect the rights of Palestinian women and their families;

4. *Calls upon* Israel to facilitate the return of all refugees and displaced Palestinian women and children to their homes and properties, in compliance with the relevant United Nations resolutions;

5. *Calls upon* the international community to continue to provide urgently needed assistance and services in an effort to alleviate the dire humanitarian crisis being faced by Palestinian women and their families and to help in the reconstruction of relevant Palestinian institutions;

6. *Requests* the Commission on the Status of Women to continue to monitor and take action with regard to the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women,[2] in particular paragraph 260 concerning Palestinian women and children, the Beijing Platform for Action[3] and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century";[4]

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to review the situation, to assist Palestinian women by all available means, including those laid out in the report of the Secretary-General on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women,[1] and to submit to the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-second session a report, including information provided by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

C. Draft decision for adoption by the Council

3. The Commission on the Status of Women also recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

Report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its fifty-first session and provisional agenda and documentation for the fifty-second session of the Commission*

The Economic and Social Council takes note of the report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its fifty-first session and approves the provisional agenda and documentation for the fifty-second session of the Commission set out below:

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

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* For the discussion, see chap. V.

[10] General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

[11] See Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, *The Hague Conventions and Declarations of 1899 and 1907* (New York, Oxford University Press, 1915).

[12] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.

Documentation

Annotated provisional agenda and proposed organization of work

3. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century":

(a) Implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern, and further actions and initiatives;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women

(b) Emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men;

(c) Gender mainstreaming, situations and programmatic matters.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on progress in mainstreaming a gender perspective in the development, implementation and evaluation of national policies and programmes, with a particular focus on the priority theme

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women

Report of the Secretary-General on the joint workplan of the Division for the Advancement of Women and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Development Fund for Women on the activities of the Fund to eliminate violence against women

Note by the Secretariat transmitting the results of the fortieth session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

4. Communications concerning the status of women.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the list of confidential communications concerning the status of women

5. Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions.

Documentation

Letter from the President of the Economic and Social Council addressed to the Chairperson of the Commission on the Status of Women

Note by the Secretariat as input to the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2008 of the Economic and Social Council

6. Provisional agenda for the fifty-third session of the Commission.

7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifty-second session.

D. Matters brought to the attention of the Council

4. The following resolutions and decision adopted by the Commission are brought to the attention of the Council:

Resolution 51/1
Women, the girl child and HIV/AIDS

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Reaffirming the Beijing Declaration[13] and Platform for Action,[3] the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,[4] the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,[14] the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS[15] adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth special session in 2001, the HIV/AIDS-related goals contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration of 2000[16] and the Millennium Development Goals, in particular the aim of Member States to have halted, by 2015, and begun to reverse, the spread of HIV/AIDS, as well as the commitments on HIV/AIDS from the 2005 World Summit,

Welcoming the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS, adopted by the General Assembly on 2 June 2006,[17]

Recalling all previous resolutions on this subject,

Acknowledging that prevention, care, support and treatment for those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS are mutually reinforcing elements of an effective response that must be integrated into a comprehensive approach to combat the epidemic,

Taking note of the Guidelines on HIV/AIDS and Human Rights, as adopted by the Second International Consultation on HIV/AIDS and Human Rights,[18]

Recognizing the need to ensure the respect, protection and fulfilment of human rights in the context of HIV/AIDS,

Recognizing also that populations destabilized by armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and natural disasters, including refugees, internally displaced persons and, in particular, women and children, are at an increased risk of exposure to HIV infection,

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[13] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex 1.

[14] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[15] General Assembly resolution S-26/2, annex.

[16] General Assembly resolution 55/2.

[17] General Assembly resolution 60/262, annex.

[18] E/CN.4/1997/37, annex I.

Deeply concerned that the global HIV/AIDS pandemic disproportionately affects women and girls and that the majority of new HIV infections occur among young people,

Concerned that the vulnerability of women, girls and adolescents to HIV/AIDS is increased by their unequal legal, economic and social status, including poverty as well as other cultural and physiological factors, violence against women and girls and adolescents, early marriage, forced marriage, premature and early sexual relations, commercial sexual exploitation and female genital mutilation,

Also concerned that HIV infection rates are at least twice as high among young people, especially young and married women, who do not finish primary school as among those who do,

Further concerned that women and girls have different and unequal access to the use of health resources for the prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS,

1. *Stresses with deep concern* that the HIV/AIDS pandemic, with its devastating scale and impact on women and girls, requires urgent action in all fields and at all levels;

2. *Stresses* that gender equality and the political, social and economic empowerment of women and girls are fundamental elements in the reduction of their vulnerability to HIV/AIDS and are essential to reversing the pandemic;

3. *Expresses its concern* that the HIV/AIDS pandemic reinforces gender inequalities, that women and girls bear a disproportionate share of the burden imposed by the HIV/AIDS crisis, that they are more easily infected, that they bear the disproportionate burden to care for and support those infected and affected by the disease and that they become more vulnerable to poverty as a result of the HIV/AIDS crisis;

4. *Reaffirms* the need for Governments, supported by the relevant actors, including civil society, to intensify national efforts and international cooperation in the implementation of the commitments contained in the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS,[15] the Beijing Platform for Action[3] and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,[14] and to work towards effectively reflecting in their national policies, strategies and budgets the gender dimension of the pandemic, in line with the time-bound goals of the Declaration and the Platform for Action;

5. *Also reaffirms* the commitment to achieve universal access to reproductive health by 2015, as set out in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, integrating this goal into strategies to attain internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration[16] aimed at reducing maternal mortality, improving maternal health, reducing child mortality, promoting gender equality, combating HIV/AIDS and eradicating poverty;

6. *Urges* Governments to take all necessary measures to create an enabling environment for the empowerment of women, to strengthen their economic independence and to protect and promote their full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, in order to enable them to protect themselves from HIV infection;

7. *Urges* Governments and other relevant stakeholders to address the challenges faced by older women caring for people living with or affected by HIV/AIDS, including orphaned grandchildren;

8. *Emphasizes* the need to strengthen policy and programme linkages and coordination between HIV/AIDS and sexual and reproductive health and their inclusion in national development plans, including poverty reduction strategies and sector-wide approaches where they exist, as a necessary strategy for fighting the HIV/AIDS pandemic and mitigating its impact on the population, which could result in more relevant and cost-effective interventions with greater impact;

9. *Urges* Governments to strengthen initiatives that would increase the capacities of women and adolescent girls to protect themselves from the risk of HIV infection, principally through the provision of health care and health services, including for sexual and reproductive health, in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, and that integrate HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care and include voluntary counselling and testing, and through prevention education that promotes gender equality within a culturally- and gender-sensitive framework;

10. *Also urges* Governments to ensure accessible and affordable procurement of prevention commodities, in particular microbicides and male and female condoms, to ensure that their supply is adequate and secure;

11. *Reminds* States to consider that flexibilities in trade-related intellectual property rights can be used by States when necessary to protect public health and address public health crises;

12. *Urges* Governments, where they have not yet done so, to institute and ensure the enforcement of laws to protect women and girls from early and forced marriage and marital rape;

13. *Also urges* Governments to expand access to treatment, in a progressive and sustainable manner, including the prevention and treatment of opportunistic diseases and effective use of antiretroviral medication, and to promote access to low-cost effective drugs and related pharmaceutical products, in particular for women and girls;

14. *Further urges* Governments to ensure that women and girls have equitable and sustained access to treatment for HIV/AIDS and opportunistic infections, appropriate to their age, health and nutritional status, with the full protection of their human rights, including their reproductive rights and sexual health, in accordance with, inter alia, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and other relevant international human rights instruments, and to protection from coerced sexual activity, and to monitor access to treatment by age, sex, marital status and continuity of care;

15. *Requests* Governments to provide equal access for women and men throughout their life cycle to social services related to health care, including education, clean water and safe sanitation, nutrition, food security and health education programmes, especially for women and girls living with and affected by HIV/AIDS, including treatment for opportunistic diseases;

16. *Calls upon* Governments to intensify efforts to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and girls in relation to HIV/AIDS, including through challenging gender stereotypes, stigmatization, discriminatory attitudes and gender inequalities, and to encourage the active involvement of men and boys in this regard;

17. *Urges* Governments to strengthen legal, policy, administrative and other measures for the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls, including harmful traditional and customary practices, abuse, early and forced marriage, rape, including marital rape, and other forms of sexual violence, battering and trafficking in women and girls, and to ensure that violence against women is addressed as an integral part of the national HIV/AIDS response;

18. *Stresses* that women should be empowered to protect themselves against violence and, in this regard, that women have the right to have control over and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality, including their sexual and reproductive health, free of coercion, discrimination and violence;

19. *Calls upon* all Governments and the international donor community to integrate a gender perspective in all matters of international assistance and cooperation and to take measures to ensure that resources concomitant with the impact of HIV/AIDS on women and girls are made available, in particular in funding provided to national HIV/AIDS programmes to promote and protect the human rights of women and girls in the context of the epidemic, and to achieve the gender-related goals found, inter alia, in the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS;

20. *Calls upon* Governments to integrate HIV prevention, voluntary counselling and testing of HIV into other health services, including sexual and reproductive health, family planning, maternity and tuberculosis services, as well as the provision of services for the prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted infections in the maternal to child transmission services for pregnant women infected by HIV;

21. *Encourages* the continued collaboration among the co-sponsors of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, the Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and other international organizations to address and reduce the spread of sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS, in particular in the context of emergency situations and as part of humanitarian efforts, and to seek actively the achievement of results for women and girls, and also encourages the mainstreaming of a gender perspective throughout their work;

22. *Requests* the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and its co-sponsors and other United Nations agencies responding to the HIV/AIDS pandemic, as well as the Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, to integrate a gender and human rights perspective throughout their HIV/AIDS-related operations, including policy, planning, monitoring and evaluation, and to ensure that programmes and policies are developed and are adequately resourced to address the specific needs of women and girls;

23. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in a follow-up to his December 2005 letter to the United Nations Resident Coordinators on the establishment of joint United Nations teams on AIDS at the country level, to request the United Nations Development Programme, as lead agency on technical support on gender and human

rights within the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, to develop the HIV-related gender and human rights capacity for all United Nations staff providing technical assistance to Governments, to advance the national response to AIDS and to report on these efforts in 2008;

24. *Encourages* the United Nations to continue to support national monitoring and evaluation mechanisms in the context of the "three ones" principles, to enable the production and dissemination of comprehensive and timely information on the gender dimension of the pandemic, including through the collection of data disaggregated by sex, age and marital status, and in raising awareness about the critical intersection between gender inequality and HIV/AIDS;

25. *Requests* the Secretary-General to invite Member States to work in partnership with the Global Coalition on Women and HIV/AIDS, convened by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and its partners, to mobilize and support a wide range of national actors, including women's groups and networks of women living with HIV/AIDS, to ensure that national HIV/AIDS programmes are better able to respond to the specific needs and vulnerabilities of women and girls;

26. *Urges* Governments to rapidly scale up access to treatment programmes to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV and to encourage men to participate with women in programmes designed to prevent mother-to-child transmission, to encourage women and girls to participate in these programmes and to provide sustained treatment and care after pregnancy;

27. *Encourages* the design and implementation of programmes to encourage and enable men, including young men, to adopt safe, non-coercive and responsible sexual and reproductive behaviour and to use effective methods to prevent the transmission of HIV/AIDS;

28. *Stresses* the importance of ensuring that young men and women have access to information and education, including peer education, youth-specific HIV education and sexual education, and to services necessary for behavioural change to develop the life skills required to reduce their vulnerability to HIV infection and reproductive ill health, in full partnership with young persons, parents, families, educators and health-care providers;

29. *Calls for* enhanced efforts by all relevant actors to include a gender perspective in the development of HIV/AIDS programmes and policies and in the training of personnel involved in implementing such programmes, including by focusing on the role of men and boys in addressing HIV/AIDS;

30. *Encourages* Governments and all other relevant actors to promote funding, both domestically and externally, and to support and expedite action-oriented research leading to affordable methods controlled by women to prevent HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases, including microbicides and vaccines, and research on strategies that empower women to protect themselves from sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS, and methods of care, support and treatment for women of various ages, and to promote their involvement in all aspects of such research;

31. *Also encourages* Governments to increase the provision of resources and facilities to women who find themselves having to provide care and/or economic support for those infected with HIV/AIDS or affected by the pandemic, and for the

survivors, particularly children and older persons, utilizing funds earmarked for care and support to reduce women's disproportionate burden of care;

32. *Urges* Governments to continue to promote the participation and the significant contribution of people living with HIV/AIDS, young people and civil society actors in addressing the problem of HIV/AIDS in all its aspects, including promoting a gender perspective, and to promote their full involvement and participation in the design, planning, implementation and evaluation of HIV/AIDS programmes, as well as in creating an enabling environment to combat stigmatization;

33. *Welcomes* the financial contributions made to date to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, urges further contributions to sustain the Fund, and calls upon all countries to encourage the private sector to contribute to the Fund;

34. *Reaffirms* the need for Governments, supported by relevant actors, and all stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector, to intensify national efforts and international cooperation in the implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS;

35. *Stresses* the importance of building up national competence and capacity to provide an assessment of the impact of the epidemic, which should be used in planning for prevention, treatment and care, and for addressing HIV/AIDS;

36. *Urges* the international community to complement and supplement, through increased international development assistance, efforts of the developing countries that commit increased national funds to fighting the HIV/AIDS pandemic, especially to address the needs of women and girls, particularly those countries most affected by HIV/AIDS, particularly in Africa, especially sub-Saharan Africa, and in the Caribbean, countries at high risk of expansion of the HIV/AIDS epidemic and countries in other affected regions whose resources for dealing with the epidemic are seriously limited;

37. *Decides* to consider this question further at its fifty-second session.

Resolution 51/2
Ending female genital mutilation

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions, 56/128 of 19 December 2001, 58/156 of 22 December 2003 and 60/141 of 16 December 2005, and all other relevant resolutions, as well as the relevant agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women,[19]

Reaffirming that the Convention on the Rights of the Child[9] and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[20] together with their Optional Protocols, constitute an important contribution to the legal framework for the protection and promotion of the human rights of girls,

[19] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2006, Supplement No. 7* (E/2006/27), chap. I.D.

[20] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

Reaffirming also the Beijing Declaration[13] and Platform for Action[3] and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[4] the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development[14] and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development[21] and their five and ten-year reviews, as well as the United Nations Millennium Declaration[16] and the commitments relevant to the girl child made at the 2005 World Summit,[22]

Recalling the entry into force of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women of Africa, adopted in Maputo on 11 July 2003, which contains, inter alia, undertakings and commitments on ending female genital mutilation and marks a significant milestone towards the abandonment and ending of female genital mutilation,

Recalling also general recommendation 14, concerning female circumcision, adopted by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women at its ninth session; paragraphs 11, 20 and 24 (l) of general recommendation 19, concerning violence against women, adopted by the Committee at its eleventh session; paragraphs 15 (d) and 18 of general recommendation 24, concerning article 12 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women on women and health, adopted by the Committee at its twentieth session; and taking note of paragraphs 21, 35, and 51 of general recommendation 14, concerning article 12 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,[23] adopted by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights at its twenty-second session,

Recognizing that female genital mutilation violates, and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment of the human rights of women and girls,

Recognizing also that female genital mutilation is an irreparable, irreversible abuse that affects one hundred to one hundred and forty million women and girls alive today, and that each year a further two million girls are at risk of undergoing the procedure,

Reaffirming that harmful traditional or customary practices, including female genital mutilation, constitute a serious threat to the health of women and girls, including their psychological, sexual and reproductive health, which can increase their vulnerability to HIV and may have adverse obstetric outcomes, as well as fatal consequences, and that the abandonment of this harmful practice can be achieved only as a result of a comprehensive movement that involves all public and private stakeholders in society,

Noting that negative discriminatory stereotypical attitudes and behaviours have direct implications for the status and treatment of girls and that such negative stereotypes impede the implementation of legislative and normative frameworks that guarantee gender equality and prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex,

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[21] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[22] See General Assembly resolution 60/1.

[23] General Assembly resolution 2200 (XXI), annex.

Noting also that the report transmitted by the Secretary-General on violence against children[24] and the report of the Secretary-General on the in-depth study on all forms of violence against women,[25] respectively, conclude that girls are at greater risk than boys of early marriage and genital mutilation, and may experience various forms of violence throughout their life cycles,

Deeply concerned about discrimination against the girl child and the violation of the rights of the girl child, which often result in less access for girls to education, nutrition and physical and mental health care, in girls enjoying fewer of the rights, opportunities and benefits of childhood and adolescence than boys, and in their often being subjected to various forms of cultural, social, sexual and economic exploitation and to violence and harmful practices, such as female infanticide, rape, incest, early marriage, forced marriage, prenatal sex selection and female genital mutilation,

1. *Stresses* that the empowerment of girls is key to breaking the cycle of discrimination and violence and for the promotion and protection of human rights, and calls upon States parties to fulfil their obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child[9] and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[20] as well as their commitment to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women,[5] the Beijing Platform for Action[3] and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[4] and of the twenty-seventh special session of the General Assembly on children;[26]

2. *Emphasizes* that awareness-raising, community mobilization, education and training are needed to ensure that all key actors and government officials, including law enforcement and judicial personnel, health-care providers, teachers, employers, media professionals and those working directly with girls, as well as parents, families and communities, work to eliminate attitudes and harmful practices that negatively affect girls;

3. *Calls upon* States to strengthen advocacy and awareness-raising programmes and mobilize girls and boys to take active part in developing programmes to eliminate harmful traditional practices, especially female genital mutilation, and to engage communities and religious leaders, educational institutions, the media and families and provide increased financial support to efforts at all levels to end these practices;

4. *Urges* States to condemn all harmful traditional practices, in particular female genital mutilation;

5. *Also urges* States to promote effective and specific targeted measures for refugee women and women migrants and their communities in order to protect girl children from female genital mutilation;

6. *Further urges* States to promote gender-sensitive, empowering educational processes, by, as appropriate, reviewing and revising school curricula, educational materials and teacher-training programmes, and elaborating policies and

[24] A/61/299.

[25] A/61/122 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1.

[26] General Assembly resolution S-27/2, annex.

programmes of zero tolerance for violence against girls, including female genital mutilation, and to further integrate a comprehensive understanding of the causes and consequences of such violence against girls into education and training curricula at all levels;

7. *Urges* States to provide education and training on the rights of girls to families, community leaders and members of all professions relevant to the protection and empowerment of girls, such as all levels of health-care providers, social workers, police officers, legal and judicial personnel and prosecutors, in order to increase awareness and commitment to the promotion and protection of the rights of girls and appropriate responses to rights violations with regard to female genital mutilation;

8. *Also urges* States to ensure the national implementation of international and regional commitments and obligations undertaken as States parties or as signatories to various international instruments protecting the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms of girls and women, as well as their translation and wide distribution to the population and the judiciary;

9. *Further urges* States to review and, where appropriate, revise, amend or abolish all laws, regulations, policies, practices and customs, in particular female genital mutilation, that discriminate against women or have a discriminatory impact on women and girls and to ensure that provisions of multiple legal systems, where they exist, comply with international human rights obligations, commitments and principles, including the principle of non-discrimination;

10. *Urges* States to take all necessary measures to protect girls and women from female genital mutilation, including by enacting and enforcing legislation to prohibit this form of violence and to end impunity;

11. *Also urges* States to develop social and psychological support services and care and to take measures to improve health, including sexual and reproductive health, in order to assist women and girls who are subjected to this violence;

12. *Calls upon* States to develop policies, protocols and rules to ensure the effective implementation of national legislative frameworks on eliminating discrimination and violence against girls, in particular female genital mutilation, and to put in place adequate accountability mechanisms at national and local levels to monitor adherence to, and implementation of, these legislative frameworks;

13. *Also calls upon* States to develop unified methods and standards for data collection on all forms of discrimination and violence against girls, especially forms that are underdocumented, such as female genital mutilation, and to develop additional indicators to effectively measure progress in eliminating female genital mutilation;

14. *Urges* States to allocate sufficient resources to the implementation of legislation and action plans aimed at abandoning female genital mutilation;

15. *Calls upon* States to develop, support and implement comprehensive and integrated strategies for the prevention of female genital mutilation, including the training of social workers, medical personnel and other relevant professionals, as well as programmes of alternative professional training for the practitioners;

16. *Calls upon* the international community, the relevant United Nations entities and civil society to actively support, through the allocation of appropriate financial resources, targeted, innovative programmes and to disseminate best practices that address the needs and priorities of girls in vulnerable situations, such as that of female genital mutilation, who have difficulties accessing services and programmes;

17. *Encourages* all decision makers, at all levels, with responsibilities for policies, legislation, programmes and allocation of public resources to play leadership roles in eliminating female genital mutilation;

18. *Encourages* men and boys to continue to take positive initiatives and to work in partnership with women and girls to combat violence against women and girls, in particular female genital mutilation, through networks, peer programmes, information campaigns and training programmes;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General, to ensure that all relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Development Fund for Women, the United Nations Population Fund, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and the World Health Organization, individually and collectively, take into account the protection and promotion of the rights of girls against female genital mutilation in their country programmes, as appropriate, and in accordance with national priorities, in order to further strengthen their efforts in this regard;

20. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the fifty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women on the implementation of the present resolution by using information provided by Member States and verifiable information provided by organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and by non-governmental organizations, with a view to assessing the impact of the present resolution on the well-being of girls.

Resolution 51/3
Forced marriage of the girl child

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Reaffirming the obligation of all States to promote and protect the human rights of women, including girls, and reaffirming relevant human rights instruments in this regard, in particular the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[20] and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[9]

Reaffirming also the Beijing Declaration[13] and Platform for Action,[3] the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly[4] and the declaration adopted by the Commission on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the fourth World Conference on Women,[27]

Recognizing that all forms of violence against women and girls impede the social and economic development of communities and States, as well as the

[27] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2005, Supplement No. 27* and corrigendum (E/2005/27 and Corr.1), chap. I.A.

achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Recalling previous General Assembly resolutions on the rights of the child, the most recent of which is resolution 61/146 of 19 December 2006,

Reaffirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[10] which states that men and women of full age have the right to marry and to found a family and that marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses, and concerned that in many countries the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is violated as marriages occur without the free and full consent of the intending spouses, primarily the girl child and young girls,

Recognizing the serious, immediate and long-term implications for health, including sexual and reproductive health, as well as an increased vulnerability to HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections, and the negative impact on the psychological, social and economic development that violence against women and girls represents for individuals, families, communities and States,

Deeply concerned about the pervasiveness of all forms of violence against women and girls in different forms and manifestations worldwide, and reiterating the need to intensify efforts to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls throughout the world,

Recognizing that women's poverty and lack of empowerment, as well as their marginalization resulting from their exclusion from social policies and from the benefits of sustainable development, can place them at increased risk of violence,

Deeply concerned about discrimination against the girl child and the violation of the rights of the girl child, which often result in less access for girls to education, nutrition and physical and mental health care and in girls enjoying fewer of the rights, opportunities and benefits of childhood and adolescence than boys and often being subjected to various forms of cultural, social, sexual and economic exploitation and to violence and harmful practices, such as female infanticide, rape, incest, early marriage, forced marriage, prenatal sex selection and female genital mutilation,

Recognizing that early marriage and early childbearing continue to be impediments to improvements in the educational, economic and social status of women in all parts of the world, and that early motherhood can severely curtail their educational and employment opportunities and is likely to have a long-term, adverse impact on the quality of their lives and the lives of their children,

Recognizing also that forced marriage, among other factors, contributes to girls faring disproportionately worse than boys in terms of access to primary school in some countries,

Recognizing further that forced marriage of the girl child has adverse psychological effects on girls and that early pregnancy and early motherhood entail complications during pregnancy and delivery and a risk of maternal mortality and morbidity that is much greater than average, and deeply concerned that early childbearing and limited access to the highest attainable standard of health, including sexual and reproductive health, including in the area of emergency obstetric care, cause high levels of obstetric fistula and maternal mortality and morbidity,

Concerned that forced marriage can involve threatening behaviour, abduction, imprisonment, physical, psychological and sexual violence, rape, and even murder,

Recognizing that women who marry at a young age are more likely to experience domestic violence than women who marry at an older age resulting from gender inequalities, in particular their lack of status and power in the marriage and household,

Recognizing also that forced marriage of the girl child and the trend towards early sexual experience, combined with the lack of information, undermines national and international efforts to fight HIV/AIDS and to improve maternal and child health, chances for survival and welfare,

1. *Urges* States:

(a) To enact and strictly enforce laws to ensure that marriage is entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses and, in addition, to enact and strictly enforce laws concerning the minimum legal age of consent and the minimum age for marriage and to raise the minimum age for marriage where necessary;

(b) To adopt and enforce requirements for registration of birth and marriage with the aim of definitively determining age at the time of marriage;

(c) To include in their reports to human rights treaty bodies, as appropriate, information on national efforts to address this problem;

(d) To ensure that the right of children to express themselves and participate in all matters affecting them, in accordance with their age and maturity, is fully and equally enjoyed by girls;

(e) To ensure that gender inequalities in primary and secondary education are eliminated, by the earliest possible date, and at all educational levels by 2015, and to create an enabling environment in order to retain girls and young women in school;

(f) To increase resources at all levels, particularly in the education and health sectors, to enable young people, especially girls, to gain the knowledge, attitudes and skills that are needed to prevent HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections and to enjoy the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, including sexual and reproductive health;

(g) To develop and implement at all levels a multisectoral, multidisciplinary, comprehensive and integrated strategy of prevention of forced marriage and support to victims who have entered into such marriage, including the training of, inter alia, health workers, teachers, law enforcement officials, military personnel, social workers, judicial personnel, community leaders and the media;

(h) To promote policies and measures aimed at the economic empowerment of young women, especially those living in rural and remote areas, inter alia, by increasing their access to economic resources, enhancing the employability of young women, developing their skills and broadening their access to career choices, as well as by facilitating better reconciliation of work and family life;

(i) To monitor progress in efforts to address forced marriage through the collection and analysis of age- and sex-disaggregated data, and to disseminate information on the causes and consequences of such marriage;

2. *Urges* States and invites, as appropriate, relevant funds and programmes, agencies and entities within the United Nations system:

(a) To support and implement the development of national and international strategies of prevention, care and treatment to effectively address sexual and reproductive health, maternal mortality and morbidities, including obstetric fistula, and to further develop a multisectoral, multidisciplinary, comprehensive and integrated approach to ensure access to the highest attainable standard of health, including sexual and reproductive health, and to bring about lasting solutions and meaningful responses to maternal mortality, morbidity and obstetric complications, including the problem of obstetric fistula;

(b) To develop, support and implement initiatives ensuring that the rights of the girl child, as a part of all human rights, are not violated by forced marriage, forced early sexual activities or harmful traditional practices;

(c) To give increased attention to national capacity-building, where necessary, in order to overcome the challenges of collecting accurate information on these practices;

3. *Invites* States and encourages, as appropriate, the private sector, non-governmental organizations and other civil society actors, and the international community:

(a) To design and implement educational programmes at all levels, and to develop information campaigns about the health-related risks, causes and consequences of forced marriage of the girl child, unprotected and premature sexual relations, and early pregnancy, as well as to develop teaching materials and textbooks, as appropriate, in order to accelerate a sociocultural change towards gender equality, in particular through sensitizing and informing women, girls, men and boys about the illegality and harmful effects of forced marriage;

(b) To support and allocate resources for programmes to strengthen preventive action, in particular education for women and men, as well as for boys and girls, on gender equality, self-respect and mutual respect and eliminating gender stereotypes, and for campaigns to increase public awareness of the issue at the national and grass-roots levels, especially keeping in mind those who may be in positions of particular influence, including parents, legal guardians, families, teachers, community and religious leaders, and the media;

(c) To provide appropriate protection, safe shelter, counselling, comprehensive information and education, legal aid, family planning, rehabilitation and reintegration into society to victims of such marriages;

(d) To increase access to the highest attainable standard of health, including sexual and reproductive health, by providing medical facilities, training for health-care workers, including traditional birth attendants, equipment, supplies and transportation in communities that practise forced marriage of the girl child;

(e) To continue to study the links between poverty, underdevelopment and certain harmful practices, such as forced marriage of the girl child, child prostitution and trafficking in persons, as well as the links between such harmful practices and customs and traditions, health, education and economic empowerment;

4. *Encourages* the international community, including bilateral donors and multilateral development organizations, to assist developing countries in ensuring the provision of basic social services for women and girls;

5. *Reiterates* that the eradication of poverty is the greatest global challenge facing the world today and is an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, in particular for developing countries, and recognizes that chronic poverty remains the single biggest obstacle to meeting the needs and protecting and promoting the rights of girls, and that urgent national and international action is therefore required to eliminate it;

6. *Invites* non-governmental organizations and other civil society actors:

(a) To continue to advocate at the local, national, regional and international levels against forced marriage, including through building and strengthening networks among those who may call attention to its adverse consequences;

(b) To continue to increase coordination and cooperation in addressing forced marriage of the girl child, and to present their observations and conclusions to Governments;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-second session on the implementation of the present resolution.

Decision 51/101
Documents considered by the Commission on the Status of Women under agenda item 3*

At its 13th meeting, on 9 March 2007, the Commission on the Status of Women took note of the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child;[28]

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on progress in mainstreaming a gender perspective in the development, implementation and evaluations of national policies and programmes, with a particular focus on the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child;[29]

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the joint workplan of the Division for the Advancement of Women and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights;[30]

(d) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Development Fund for Women on the activities of the Fund to eliminate violence against women;[31]

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on the advisability of the appointment of a special rapporteur on laws that discriminate against women;[32]

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* For the discussion, see chap. II.

[28] E/CN.6/2007/2.

[29] E/CN.6/2007/3.

[30] A/HRC/4/68-E/CN.6/2007/5.

[31] A/HRC/4/069-E/CN.6/2007/6.

[32] E/CN.6/2007/8.

Chapter II

Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"

1. The Commission considered item 3 of the agenda at its 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th and 13th meetings, on 26, 27, 28 February and 1, 2, 7 and 9 March. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child (E/CN.6/2007/2);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on progress in mainstreaming a gender perspective in the development, implementation and evaluations of national policies and programmes, with a particular focus on the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child (E/CN.6/2007/3);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women (E/CN.6/2007/4*);

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on the joint workplan of the Division for the Advancement of Women and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (A/HRC/4/68-E/CN.6/2007/5);

(e) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Development Fund for Women on the activities of the Fund to eliminate violence against women (A/HRC/4/069-E/CN.6/2007/6);

(f) Letter dated 2 November 2006 from the President of the Economic and Social Council to the Chairperson of the Commission on the Status of Women (E/CN.6/2007/7);

(g) Report of the Secretary-General on the advisability of the appointment of a special rapporteur on laws that discriminate against women (E/CN.6/2007/8);

(h) Statements submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.6/2007/NGO/1-43);

(i) Note by the Secretary-General on the results of the thirty-seventh session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (E/CN.6/2007/CRP.1);

(j) Note by the Secretariat on the proposed programme of work of the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women and the Division for the Advancement of Women for the biennium 2008-2009 (E/CN.6/2007/CRP.2);

(k) Note by the Bureau of the Commission on the Status of Women on the discussion guide on the high-level round table on the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child (E/CN.6/2007/CRP.4).

2. At its 1st, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th and 10th meetings, on 26 and 28 February and 1 and 2 March, the Commission held a general discussion on agenda item 3.

3. At the 1st meeting, on 26 February, statements were made by the representatives of Pakistan (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), Germany (on behalf of the European Union and the associated countries), Sweden, Burkina Faso, Indonesia, the Dominican Republic (on behalf of the Rio Group), Antigua and Barbuda, Uganda, Sri Lanka and El Salvador.

4. At the 5th meeting, on 28 February, introductory statements were made by the Assistant Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, the Director, Division for the Advancement of Women and the Executive Director of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM).

5. At the same meeting, statements were made by the Chairperson of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and by a member of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, on behalf of its Chairperson.

6. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Lesotho (on behalf of the Southern African Development Community), the Congo, Iceland, Togo, Côte d'Ivoire, Norway, Gabon, Barbados, Mauritius, the United Republic of Tanzania, Namibia, Ghana, Kenya, the Niger, Tuvalu (on behalf of the Pacific Islands Forum) and Hungary.

7. At the 5th meeting, a statement was made by the Director of the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW).

8. At the 6th meeting, on 28 February, statements were made by the representatives of the Republic of Korea, Mexico, the Russian Federation, Angola, Morocco, Liberia, the United States of America, Australia, Canada, the Philippines, Armenia, Israel, Egypt, Chile, Spain, Japan, Argentina, Ecuador, Jamaica, Greece, Kazakhstan, the Sudan, Algeria, the Bahamas, Botswana and Malaysia.

9. At the 7th meeting, on 1 March, statements were made by the representatives of Thailand, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Turkey, South Africa, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, the Syrian Arab Republic, New Zealand, the Dominican Republic, India, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Yemen, Cuba, Switzerland, Costa Rica, Myanmar, San Marino, Colombia, Slovenia, Finland, Papua New Guinea, Zambia, Liechtenstein, the United Arab Emirates, Malawi, Mali and Qatar, as well as by the observer for Palestine.

10. At the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for the Human Rights Advocates and the Coalition of Islamic Organization (non-governmental organizations).

11. At the 8th meeting, on 1 March, a statement was made by the representative of the Economic Community for Western Africa (ECOWAS).

12. At the 10th meeting, on 2 March, statements were made by the representatives of Croatia, the Netherlands, Peru, China, Belarus, Italy, France, Cameroon, Qatar, Bangladesh, Suriname, Lebanon, Fiji, Lesotho, Senegal and Benin, and by the observer for the Holy See.

13. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the International Organization for Migration, the Sovereign Military Order of Malta and the African Union.

14. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the World Bank, ILO, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and the regional commissions of the United Nations.

15. At the 10th meeting, the observers for the following non-governmental organizations made statements: Asia Pacific Caucus; Women in Law and Development in Africa (WiLDAF) for the African Women Caucus; North American NGO Caucus; and Middle East Women's Caucus.

16. At the 13th meeting, on 9 March, a representative of the Secretariat, on behalf of the Assistant Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, presented an oral report on the improvement of the status of women in the United Nations system.

Agenda item 3 (a) (i)
Implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives: the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child

17. At its 2nd meeting, on 26 February, the Commission held parallel high-level round tables on the theme "Elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child".

High-level round table A

18. The Commission held a high-level round table chaired by Carmen Gallardo (El Salvador), Chairperson of the Commission.

19. The delegations of the following countries participated: Argentina, Belgium, Cameroon, Chile, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Denmark, Ecuador, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mali, Norway, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Zambia.

20. The following invited guests made interventions: Saniye Corat (UNESCO), Dr. Marcus Stahlhofer (World Health Organization), Peter Donaldson (Population Council), Betty Makoni (Girl Child Network, Zimbabwe) and Chinyanta J. Chimba, a girl child representative.

21. A statement was also made by the representative of UNAIDS.

High-level round table B

22. The Commission held a high-level round table chaired by Emyr Jones Parry (United Kingdom).

23. The delegations of the following countries participated: Bangladesh, Botswana, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Croatia, Cuba, the Dominican

Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, France, Iceland, India, Jordan, Malawi, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, New Zealand, the Niger, Pakistan, Portugal, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, the Sudan, Suriname, the Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey and Yemen.

24. The following invited guests made interventions: Evy Messell (ILO), Cheryl Morden (International Fund for Agricultural Development), Hourig Babikian (United Nations Children's Fund NGO Committee), Siv Mjaaland (CARE International) and Vanessa Juárez Arévalo, a girl child representative.

25. A statement was also made by the Director of INSTRAW.

26. At its 13th meeting, on 9 March, the Commission took note of the summary submitted by the chairpersons.*

Panel discussions under agenda 3 (a) (i) Key policy initiatives to eliminate all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child

27. At its 3rd meeting, on 27 February, the Commission held a panel discussion chaired by Carmen Maria Gallardo (El Salvador), Chairperson of the Commission, on "Key policy initiatives to eliminate all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child".

28. Presentations were made by Maria Lúcia Pinto Leal, Professor of Social Work at Brasilia University, Brazil; Michal Komem, Program Manager of Youth Programs at Ashalim of Israel; Radhika Coomaraswamy, United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict; Angela Kocze, doctoral candidate in sociology and social anthropology at the Central European University, Budapest, Hungary; and Judith Bruce, a senior associate at the Population Council, United States.

29. The Commission then held a dialogue with the panellists, in which the following delegations participated: Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, El Salvador, France, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Lebanon, Mexico, Namibia, Netherlands, Republic of Korea, Syrian Arab Republic, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

30. The representatives of Plan International Zambia and the Fédération européenne de femmes actives au foyer (non-governmental organizations) also participated.

31. At its 13th meeting, on 9 March, the Commission took note of the moderator's summary of the panel discussion.*

The role of men and boys in achieving gender equality

32. At its 9th meeting, on 2 March, the Commission held a panel discussion on "The role of men and boys in achieving gender equality".

* http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/51sess.htm.

33. Presentations were made by Gary Barker, Executive Director, Instituto Promundo, and Aminata Touré, Officer-in-Charge for the Culture, Gender and Human Rights Branch, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

34. The Commission then held a dialogue with the panellists, in which the following delegations participated: Algeria, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chile, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, Kenya, Mali, Mauritius, Mexico, Namibia, Norway, Pakistan, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Senegal, the Sudan, Suriname and Thailand.

35. The observers for the following non-governmental organizations also participated: International Association of Human Values; Organisation du renouveau de la conscience féminine; Inuit Circumpolar Council; World Alliance of Young Men's Christian Associations; Center for Practice-Oriented Feminist Science; and To Love Children Educational Foundation, Inc.

36. At its 13th meeting, on 9 March, the Commission took note of the moderator's summary of the panel discussion.*

Panel discussion on agenda item 3 (b)
Emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men

37. At its 8th meeting, on 1 March, the Commission held an expert panel on "Elimination of all forms of violence against women: follow-up to the Secretary-General's in-depth study at national and international levels".

38. Presentations were made by Yakin Ertürk, United Nations Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences; Carol Hagemann-White, Chair of Educational Theory and Feminist Studies at the University of Osnabrück, Germany; Susana Chiarotti, Director of the Institute for Gender, Law and Development, Rosario, Argentina; Aminata Touré, Officer-in-Charge for the Culture, Gender and Human Rights Branch of UNFPA; and Noeleen Heyzer, Executive Director, UNIFEM.

39. The Commission then held a dialogue with the panellists, in which the following delegations participated: Argentina, Australia, Burundi, Canada, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Fiji, France, Germany, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Mexico, Morocco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, the Republic of Korea, Spain, Switzerland, Togo, the United Kingdom, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Palestine.

40. The representatives of the Council of Europe participated.

41. The observers for the Coalition against Trafficking in Women, the Center for Practice-Oriented Feminist Science, the International Federation of Home Economics, Defensa de Niñas y Niños Internacional and the Union de l'action féminine (non-governmental organizations) also participated.

42. At its 13th meeting, on 9 March, the Commission took note of the moderator's summary of the panel discussion.*

* http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/51sess.htm.

Panel discussion on agenda item 3 (c) Capacity-building on mainstreaming a gender perspective in the development, implementation and evaluation of national policies and programmes for the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child

43. At its 4th meeting, on 27 February, the Commission held a panel discussion on "Capacity-building on mainstreaming a gender perspective in the development, implementation and evaluation of national policies and programmes for the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child".

44. Presentations were made by Amaryllis T. Torres, Commissioner at the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women and Professor at the University of the Philippines; Esther Odwaa Ofei-Aboagye, Director of the Institute of Local Government Studies in Legon, Ghana; Moushira Khattab, member of the Committee on the Rights of the Child and Secretary-General of the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood, Egypt; Rima Salah, Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); and Shanti Dairiam, founder of International Women's Rights Action Watch — Asia Pacific, Malaysia.

45. The Commission then held a dialogue with the panellists, in which the following delegations participated: Botswana, Burundi, Cameroon, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, the Dominican Republic, Fiji, Gabon, Germany, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Israel, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malawi, Mexico, New Zealand, Pakistan, the Philippines, Rwanda, Spain, Togo, Turkey, Tuvalu, the United States, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Zambia.

46. The representatives of the International Network of Liberal Women, the International Health Awareness Network, Project Five-O and the International Sexual and Reproductive Rights Coalition (non-governmental organizations) also participated.

47. At its 13th meeting, on 9 March, the Commission took note of the moderator's summary of the panel discussion.*

Agreed conclusions on the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child

48. At its 13th meeting, on 9 March, the Vice-Chairperson of the Commission, Tom Woodroffe (United Kingdom), reported on the outcome of informal consultations on the agreed conclusions.

49. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Cuba and the United States.

50. Also at the same meeting, the Commission adopted the agreed conclusions and decided to transmit them for information to the review session to take place in 2007 of the outcome document, entitled "A World Fit for Children", adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-seventh special session (see chap I, sect. A).

* http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/51sess.htm.

Action taken by the Commission

Women, the girl child and HIV/AIDS

51. At the 11th meeting, on 7 March, the representative of Lesotho, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Southern African Development Community, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Women, the girl child and HIV/AIDS" (E/CN.6/2007/L.1), and orally revised the text as follows:

(a) At the end of the first preambular paragraph, the words "as well as the commitments on HIV/AIDS from the 2005 World Summit" were inserted;

(b) The second preambular paragraph was replaced with a new paragraph which read as follows:

"*Welcoming* the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS, adopted by the General Assembly on 2 June 2006,".

52. At its 13th meeting, on 9 March, the Commission was informed that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

53. At the same meeting, the representative of Lesotho made a statement and announced that Andorra, Benin, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Canada, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, the Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Hungary, Kenya, Mexico, the Netherlands, Poland, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and Thailand had joined in sponsoring the draft resolution. Subsequently, Algeria, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Belize, the Central African Republic, Chile, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Fiji, France, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Lithuania, Mali, Monaco, Morocco, the Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, San Marino, Serbia, Suriname, Switzerland, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, the United Kingdom and Uruguay joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

54. Also at the same meeting, a statement was made by the representative of Chile.

55. At its 13th meeting, on 9 March, the Commission adopted the draft resolution on women, the girl child and HIV/AIDS, as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. D, resolution 51/1).

56. At same meeting, after the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of the United States and Cuba.

Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women

57. At the 11th meeting, on 7 March, the representative of Pakistan, on behalf of States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women" (E/CN.6/2007/L.2).

58. At its 13th meeting, on 9 March, the Commission was advised that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

59. At the same meeting, the representative of Pakistan orally revised the text of the draft resolution as follows:

(a) In the seventh preambular paragraph, the word "on" was replaced by the word "in" after the words "from Israeli military operations";

(b) In the eighth preambular paragraph, the words "*Expressing deep concern* about the detrimental financial impact of the siege" were replaced by the words "*Expressing the importance* of providing assistance, especially emergency assistance, to alleviate the harmful impact of the financial crisis";

(c) In the ninth preambular paragraph, the words "issued on 31 August 2005" were inserted after the words "report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights"; the word "mothers'" after the word "Palestinian" was replaced by the word "women"; and the word "Israeli" was deleted before the word "practice";

(d) A new preambular paragraph was added before paragraph 1, which read as follows:

> "Emphasizing the importance of increasing the role of women in decision-making with regard to conflict prevention and resolution as part of efforts to ensure the safety and well-being of all women in the region";

(e) In paragraph 1, the word "serious" was replaced by the word "intensified" before the word "measures";

(f) In paragraph 2, the words "and encourages all women in the region to take an active role in supporting the peace process" was inserted at the end of the paragraph.

60. At its 13th meeting, the Commission adopted the draft resolution on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women, as orally revised, by a recorded vote of 40 to 2, with 0 abstention (see chap. I, sect. B). The voting was as follows:*

In favour:

Algeria, Armenia, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, China, Congo, Croatia, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Germany, Ghana, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, Nigeria, Peru, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Suriname, Thailand, Togo, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania.

Against:

Canada, United States of America.

Abstain:

None.

61. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of Israel; after the adoption of the draft resolution, statements in explanation of vote were made by the representatives of the United States, Germany (on behalf of the European Union) and Canada.

62. A statement was also made by the observer for Palestine.

* The representatives of Lesotho and Zambia indicated that had their delegations been present at the time of the vote, they would have voted in favour of the draft resolution.

Ending female genital mutilation

63. At the 11th meeting, on 7 March, the representative of South Africa, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the African Group, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Ending female genital mutilation" (E/CN.6/2007/L.3), which read as follows:

"*The Commission on the Status of Women*,

"*Recalling* General Assembly resolutions 56/128 of 19 December 2001, 58/156 of 22 December 2003 and 60/141 of 16 December 2005, and all other relevant resolutions, as well as the agreed conclusions adopted at the fiftieth session of the Commission on the Status of Women,

"*Reaffirming* that the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, together with their Optional Protocols, constitute an important contribution to the legal framework for the protection and promotion of the human rights of girls,

"*Reaffirming also* the goals and commitments contained in the Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century", the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development and their five and ten-year reviews, as well as the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the commitments relevant to the girl child in the 2005 World Summit Outcome,

"*Recalling* the entry into force of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, adopted in Maputo on 11 July 2003, which marks a significant milestone towards the abandonment and ending of female genital mutilation,

"*Recalling also* general recommendation 14 concerning female circumcision adopted by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women at its ninth session, paragraphs 11, 20 and 24 (l) of general recommendation 19 concerning violence against women adopted by the Committee at its eleventh session, paragraphs 15 (d) and 18 of general recommendation 24 concerning article 12 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women on women and health adopted by the Committee at its twentieth session, and taking note of paragraphs 21, 35, and 51 of general recommendation 14 concerning article 12 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights adopted by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights at its twenty-second session,

"*Recognizing* that female genital mutilation violates the human rights of women and girls,

"*Noting* that the reports of the Secretary-General on violence against children and on violence against women, respectively, single out that girls are at greater risk than boys of early marriage, genital mutilation and may experience various forms of violence throughout their life cycles,

"*Noting also* that negative discriminatory stereotypical attitudes and behaviours have direct implications for the status and treatment of girls and that such negative stereotypes impede the implementation of legislative and normative frameworks that guarantee gender equality and prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex,

"*Reaffirming* that harmful traditional or customary practices, including female genital mutilation, constitute a serious threat to the health of women and girls and may have fatal consequences, and that the abandonment of this harmful practice can be achieved only as a result of a comprehensive movement that involves all public and private stakeholders in society,

"*Recognizing* that female genital mutilation is an irreparable, irreversible abuse that affects one hundred to one hundred and forty million women and girls alive today and that each year, a further two million girls are at risk of undergoing the procedure,

"1. *Stresses* that the empowerment of girls is key to breaking the cycle of discrimination and violence and the promotion and protection of their human rights, and calls upon States to fulfil their obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, as well as the commitment to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled 'Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century', and of the twenty-seventh special session on children;

"2. *Emphasizes* that awareness-raising, community mobilization, education and training are needed to ensure that all key actors, government officials, including law enforcement and judicial officers, teachers, employers, media professionals and those directly working with girls, as well as parents, families and communities work to eliminate attitudes and harmful practices that negatively affect girls;

"3. *Calls upon* States to strengthen advocacy and awareness-raising programmes on harmful traditional practices, especially female genital mutilation, to engage communities and religious leaders, educational institutions and families and to provide increased financial support to efforts at all levels to end these practices;

"4. *Urges* States to promote gender-sensitive, empowering educational processes by reviewing and revising, as necessary, school curricula, educational materials and teacher-training programmes and by elaborating policies and programmes of zero tolerance for violence against girls, including female genital mutilation, and to further integrate a comprehensive understanding of the causes and consequences of such violence against girls into education and training curricula at all levels;

"5. *Also urges* States to provide education and training on the rights of girls to families, community leaders and members of all professions relevant to the protection and empowerment of girls, such as social workers, police officers, judges, lawyers and prosecutors, in order to increase awareness of and commitment to the promotion and protection of the rights of girls and

appropriate responses to rights violations, with regard to female genital mutilation;

"6. *Urges* Governments to ensure the national implementation of international and regional commitments undertaken as States Parties or as signatories to various international instruments protecting the fundamental right and freedoms of girls and women and also to ensure that they are translated into local languages that are widely distributed to the population and the judiciary;

"7. *Urges* States to review and, where appropriate, revise, amend or abolish all laws, regulations, policies, practices and customs that discriminate against women or have a discriminatory impact on women and to ensure that provisions of multiple legal systems, where they exist, comply with international human rights obligations, commitments and principles, including the principle of non-discrimination;

"8. *Also urges* States to enact and enforce legislation to protect girls from all forms of violence, particularly female genital mutilation, and to develop social and psychological support services to assist girls who are subjected to this violence;

"9. *Calls upon* States to develop policies, protocols and rules to ensure the effective implementation of national legislative frameworks on eliminating discrimination and violence against girls, in particular female genital mutilation, and to put in place adequate accountability mechanisms at national and local levels to monitor adherence to, and implementation of, these mechanisms;

"10. *Also calls upon* States to develop unified methods and standards for data collection on all forms of discrimination and violence against girls, especially forms that are under-documented such as female genital mutilation, and to develop additional indicators to effectively measure progress in eliminating female genital mutilation;

"11. *Calls upon* Governments to allocate sufficient resources to the implementation of legislation and action plans aimed at bringing about the abandonment of female genital mutilation;

"12. *Calls upon* the international community, the relevant United Nations entities and civil society to actively support, through the allocation of increased financial resources, targeted, innovative programmes that address the needs and priorities of girls in vulnerable situations, such as that of female genital mutilation, who have difficulties accessing services and programmes;

"13. *Encourages* all decision makers at all levels with responsibilities for policies, legislation, programmes and allocation of public resources to play leadership roles in eliminating female genital mutilation;

"14. *Encourages* men and boys to continue to take positive initiatives to combat violence against women and girls, in particular female genital mutilation, through networks, peer programmes, information campaigns and training programmes;

"15. *Requests* the Secretary-General, to ensure that all relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, in particular, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Population Fund, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Development Fund for Women, the United Nations Development Programme and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, individually and collectively, take into account the protection and promotion of the rights of girls against female genital mutilation in their country programmes, as appropriate, in accordance with national priorities, so as to further strengthen their efforts in this regard;

"16. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the fifty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women on the implementation of the present resolution by using information provided by Member States and verifiable information provided by organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations, with a view to assessing the impact of the present resolution on the well-being of girls."

64. At its 13th meeting, on 9 March, the Commission had before it a revised draft resolution submitted by South Africa, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the African Group, entitled "Ending female genital mutilation" (E/CN.6/2007/L.3/Rev.1). Subsequently Andorra, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bolivia, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Cyprus, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Lithuania, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, San Marino, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, the United Kingdom and Uruguay joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

65. At the same meeting, on 9 March, the Commission was advised that the revised draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

66. Also at the same meeting, the representative of South Africa on behalf of the African Group orally revised the text of the draft resolution as follows:

(a) In the eighth preambular paragraph, the words "and prenatal" were deleted after the words "adverse obstetric";

(b) In the tenth preambular paragraph, after the words "early marriage" a "comma" was inserted;

(c) In paragraph 3, the words "preventive and elimination programmes to address" before the words "harmful traditional practices", were replaced by the words "programmes to eliminate";

(d) In paragraph 5, the words "within the general framework of integration policies" after the words "to promote", were deleted; and the words "including when the practice occurs outside the country of residence" at the end of the paragraph, were deleted;

(e) In paragraph 10, the words "including enacting and enforcing legislation to prohibit female genital mutilation and protect girls and women from this form of violence, and to end impunity" after the words "necessary measures", were replaced by the words "to protect girls and women from female genital mutilation including

by enacting and enforcing legislation to prohibit this form of violence and to end impunity".

67. At its 13th meeting, the Commission adopted the draft resolution on ending female genital mutilation, as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. D, resolution 51/2).

68. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representative of the United States and the observer for the Holy See.

Forced marriage of the girl child

69. At the 11th meeting, on 7 March, the representative of the United States of America introduced a draft resolution entitled "Forced and early marriage" (E/CN.6/2007/L.4), which read as follows:

"*The Commission on the Status of Women*,

"*Reaffirming* the obligations of all States to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, as stated in the Charter of the United Nations and guided by the purposes and principles of human rights instruments,

"*Reaffirming also* the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states that men and women of full age have the right to marry and to found a family, and that marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses,

"*Concerned* that there is a gap between countries' customs, traditions and practices and their laws, as some nations in which forced and early marriage occurs have laws establishing a minimum age of marriage,

"*Recognizing* that early childbearing continues to be an impediment to improvement in the educational, economic and social status of women in all parts of the world, and that forced and early marriage and early motherhood can severely curtail educational and employment opportunities and are likely to have a long-term, adverse impact on the quality of the lives of women and those of their children,

"*Recognizing* that forced and early marriage contributes to girls' faring disproportionately worse than boys in terms of access to primary school,

"*Recognizing also* that motherhood at a very young age entails complications during pregnancy and delivery and a risk of maternal death that is much greater than average,

"*Recognizing further* that forced and early marriage increases the risk of HIV infection,

"*Concerned* that forced and early marriage can involve threatening behaviour, abduction, imprisonment, physical violence, rape and even murder,

"*Recognizing* that women who marry at a young age are more likely to experience domestic violence than women who marry at an older age, resulting from their lack of status and power in the marriage and household,

"*Recognizing also* that forced and early marriage undercuts international efforts to fight poverty and HIV/AIDS and to improve maternal and child health, survival and welfare,

"1. *Urges* States:

(a) To enact and strictly enforce laws to ensure that marriage is entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses and, in addition, to enact and strictly enforce laws concerning the minimum age of consent and the minimum age for marriage and raise the minimum age for marriage where necessary;

(b) To adopt and enforce requirements for registration of birth and marriage, with the aim of definitively determining age at the time of marriage;

(c) To include in their reports to human rights treaty bodies, as appropriate, information on national efforts to address forced and early marriage;

(d) To increase access to and encourage completion of primary and secondary education for married and unmarried girls;

(e) To establish educational programmes and develop teaching materials and textbooks, as appropriate, that will sensitize and inform women, girls, men and boys about the harmful effects of forced and early marriage;

(f) To train law enforcement and judiciary officials on forced and early marriage laws and their effective implementation;

"2. *Urges* States and the United Nations system:

(a) To develop a national strategy of prevention and treatment to effectively address the condition of obstetric fistula and to further develop a multisectoral, comprehensive and integrated approach to bring about lasting solutions and a meaningful response to the problem of obstetric fistula and related morbidities;

(b) To integrate prevention initiatives against forced and early marriage into international development programmes to further health, education and employment;

(c) To monitor progress in efforts to address forced and early marriage through the regular collection, analysis, and dissemination of data, and to work towards overcoming the challenges of collecting information on the practice;

"3. *Invites* Governments, as well as the private sector, non-governmental organizations and other civil society actors:

(a) To conduct public education and awareness campaigns to raise awareness about the causes and consequences of forced and early marriage and the benefits of delaying marriage, especially keeping in mind those who may be in positions of particular influence to help eradicate forced and early marriage, including parents, teachers and religious leaders;

(b) To sensitize the girl child, parents, teachers and society concerning good general health and nutrition and raise awareness of the health dangers and other problems connected with early pregnancies;

(c) To increase access to health care by providing medical facilities, training for health care workers, equipment, supplies and transportation in communities that practice forced and early marriage;

(d) To support and expand nutrition and immunization programmes for young mothers and their children;

(e) To address the needs of young married girls regarding family planning and HIV/AIDS prevention, care, testing and treatment programmes;

(f) To establish shelters offering counselling and education services for girls who escape forced and early marriages;

(g) To support programmes to eliminate violence against women;

(h) To continue to study the links between forced and early marriage and poverty; customs, traditions and practices; health; education; and economic empowerment;

"4. *Invites* non-governmental organizations and other civil society actors:

(a) To advocate at the local, national, regional and international levels on forced and early marriage, including through building and strengthening networks among those who may call attention to its adverse consequences;

(b) To increase coordination and cooperation in addressing forced and early marriage, and continue to present their observations and conclusions to Governments;

"5. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in his report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-second session, to include information on forced and early marriage, and encourages Governments to cooperate with the Secretary-General by providing precise data on the subject."

70. At the same meeting, the representative of El Salvador made a statement and joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

71. At its 13th meeting, on 9 March, the Commission had before it a revised draft resolution submitted by the United States, entitled "Forced and early marriage" (E/CN.6/2007/L.4/Rev.1).

72. At the same meeting, the Commission was advised that the revised draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

73. Also at the same meeting, the representative of the United States presented revisions to the draft resolution in an informal paper and announced that Côte d'Ivoire and Panama had joined in sponsoring the revised draft resolution. Subsequently, Angola, Benin, the Congo, Mali and Togo joined in sponsoring the revised draft resolution.

74. At the 13th meeting, the representative of Germany (on behalf of the European Union and Costa Rica, Iceland, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland, Turkey and Uruguay) proposed amendments to the text, as contained in the informal paper.

75. At the same meeting, the representative of the United States proposed amendments to the amendments proposed by the representative of Germany.

76. Also at the same meeting, Cuba joined in sponsoring the amendments proposed by the representative of Germany.

77. At the 13th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Côte d'Ivoire, the Russian Federation, New Zealand (also on behalf of Canada, Mexico, Norway and Switzerland) and China.

78. At the same meeting, the representative of Germany made a statement, in which she stated that the amendments introduced by the representative of the United States had not been accepted.

79. The United States then withdrew from sponsoring the draft resolution.

80. At its 13th meeting, the Commission adopted, without a vote, the amendments, as proposed by the representative of Germany.

81. At the same meeting, the representative of the United States made a clarification to statements made by the representatives of Pakistan and Germany that the title of the resolution had been revised to read "Forced marriage of the girl child".

82. Also at the same meeting, the Secretary of the Commission responded to a query made by the representative of Qatar.

83. At its 13th meeting, the Commission adopted the revised draft resolution on forced marriage of the girl child, as amended (see chap. I, sect. D, resolution 51/3).

84. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of the United States and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Elimination of harmful practices of prenatal sex selection and female infanticide

85. At its 13th meeting, on 9 March 2007, the Commission had before it a draft resolution submitted by the Republic of Korea and the United States entitled "Elimination of harmful practices of prenatal sex selection and female infanticide" (E/CN.6/2007/L.5).

86. At the same meeting, the Commission was advised that the draft resolution had been withdrawn by its sponsors.

Documents considered by the Commission on the Status of Women under agenda item 3

87. At its 13th meeting, on 9 March 2007, the Commission on the Status of Women decided to take note of a number of documents under agenda item 3 (see chap. I, sect. D, draft decision 51/101).

Chapter III
Communications concerning the status of women

1. The Commission considered item 4 of its agenda at its 12th meeting (closed), on 11 March 2007. It had before it the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the confidential list of communications concerning the status of women (E/CN.6/2007/SW/Communications List No. 41 and Addendum) and the report of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women (E/CN.6/2007/CRP.5).

Action taken by the Commission

Report of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women

2. At its 12th meeting (closed), on 11 March, the Commission considered the report of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women (E/CN.6/2007/CRP.5).

3. At the same meeting, the Commission took note of the report of the Working Group and agreed to include it in the report of the Commission. The report of the Working Group is as follows:

> 1. The Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women met in closed meetings before the fifty-first session of the Commission on the Status of Women in accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2002/235 and was guided in its deliberations by the mandate given to it by the Council in its resolution 76 (V), as amended by the Council in its resolutions 304 I (XI), 1983/27 and 1992/19.
>
> 2. The Working Group considered the list of confidential communications and replies by Governments (E/CN.6/2007/SW/COMM.LIST/R.41 and Add.1). There was no list of non-confidential communications concerning the status of women since no such communications had been received by the Secretary-General.
>
> 3. The Working Group considered the 15 confidential communications received directly by the Division for the Advancement of Women and the 3 confidential communications received by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) concerning the status of women. The Working Group noted that no confidential communications concerning the status of women had been received from other United Nations bodies or specialized agencies.
>
> 4. The Working Group noted that there were replies from Governments to 8 of the 15 communications received by the Division for the Advancement of Women, including a note stating that a full reply was pending, and replies to all of the communications transmitted by OHCHR. The Working Group also noted that one Government had sent a reply to a communication on the previous year's list of confidential communications and replies by Governments (E/CN.6/2006/SW/COMM.LIST/R.40 and Add.1).

5. The Working Group recalled its mandate as defined in paragraph 4 of Council resolution 1983/27, which stated that the Working Group should perform the following functions:

(a) Consideration of all communications, including the replies of Governments thereon, if any, with a view to bringing to the attention of the Commission those communications, including the replies of Governments, which appeared to reveal a consistent pattern of reliably attested injustice and discriminatory practices against women;

(b) Preparation of a report, based on its analysis of the confidential and non-confidential communications, which would indicate the categories in which communications were most frequently submitted to the Commission.

6. The Working Group noted that a number of communications of a general nature had been submitted, as opposed to communications alleging specific cases of discrimination or injustice against individual women and girls.

7. The Working Group discerned the following categories in which communications had most frequently been submitted to the Commission:

(a) Sexual violence against women, in particular girls, including rape and gang rape, committed by private individuals, law enforcement personnel and military personnel, as well as the failure by the State to provide adequate protection to victims and bring perpetrators to justice promptly;

(b) Other forms of violence against women and girls, including domestic violence, marital rape, forced and early marriage and harmful traditional practices, such as female genital mutilation, with a lack of due diligence by States adequately to investigate, prosecute and punish the perpetrators and/or a lack of specific legislation in those areas;

(c) Abuse of power, impunity, lack of due process, arbitrary detention and failure to grant a fair trial;

(d) Inhumane treatment in detention and inadequate conditions of imprisonment for women;

(e) The impact of armed conflict and situations of insecurity, in particular on women and girls belonging to vulnerable groups, such as internally displaced women and girls, with resulting heightened exposure to, inter alia, sexual violence, torture, abduction and arbitrary killing, and the failure of States to abide by international humanitarian law, as well as international human rights law, and to protect and assist them;

(f) Serious violations of the human rights of women and girls, including trafficking, torture, killings, forced prostitution and sexual slavery;

(g) Physical and psychological threats and pressure of victims of violence, their families and witnesses by Government officials in order to force retraction of complaints or testimony;

(h) Differential application of punishments in law based on sex, including cruel, inhuman or degrading forms of punishment;

(i) Impact of legislation and practices that discriminates against women in the areas of:

(i) Personal status, including marriage, citizenship, immigration, religious and minority status, as well as equal recognition before the law;

(ii) The right to own and inherit property;

(iii) Education and employment.

8. During its consideration of all communications, including the replies of Governments thereon, and of whether any of those appeared to reveal a consistent pattern of reliably attested injustice and discriminatory practices against women, the Working Group expressed its concern about:

(a) Sexual violence and other forms of violence against women, in particular girls;

(b) The climate of impunity and abuse of power in many cases where violence against women, especially sexual violence, is perpetrated or condoned by law enforcement personnel and military personnel;

(c) The failure by States, in contravention of their human rights obligations, to exercise due diligence to prevent all forms of violence against women, in particular girls, and adequately to investigate such crimes and punish perpetrators;

(d) The continued existence of legislation or practices in many areas either intended to or with the effect of discriminating against women, despite States' international obligations and commitments and constitutional provisions to outlaw such discrimination.

9. The Working Group expressed appreciation of the cooperation by those Governments that had submitted replies to or observations that clarified the communications received and it encouraged all others to do so in the future. The Working Group considered that cooperation essential for it to discharge its duties effectively. From some of the replies received, the Working Group was encouraged to note that some Governments were in the process of reform and of adopting new legislation or making efforts to harmonize national legislation and practices with relevant international standards.

Chapter IV

Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions

1. The Commission considered item 5 of its agenda at its 11th meeting, on 7 March 2007. It had before it a letter, dated 2 November 2006, from the President of the Economic and Social Council to the Chairperson of the Commission on the Status of Women (E/CN.6/2007/7) and the note by the Secretariat on strengthening efforts to eradicate poverty and hunger, including through the global partnership for development, an input to the high-level segment of the 2007 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.6/2007/CRP.3).

2. At the same meeting, the Director of the Division for the Advancement of Women, Department of Economic and Social Affairs made an introductory statement.

3. Also, at the same meeting, the President of the Economic and Social Council and the President of the Human Rights Council addressed the Commission and responded to questions posed by the representatives of Ecuador, Côte d'Ivoire, India and Liechtenstein.

Action taken by the Commission

4. At its 11th meeting, on 7 March, the Commission authorized its Chairperson to draw the attention of the President of the Economic and Social Council to the above-mentioned note by the Secretariat (E/CN.6/2007/CRP.3) for the information of the Council's high-level segment in 2007.

Chapter V

Provisional agenda for the fifty-second session of the Commission

1. The Commission considered item 6 of its agenda at its 13th meeting, on 9 March 2007. It had before it the note by the Secretariat containing the draft provisional agenda for the fifty-second session of the Commission (E/CN.6/2007/L.6).

2. At the same meeting, the Commission recommended the draft provisional agenda for its fifty-second session for adoption by the Economic and Social Council (see chap. I, sect. C).

Chapter VI

Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifty-first session

1. At its 13th meeting, on 9 March 2007, the Rapporteur introduced the draft report of the Commission on its fifty-first session (E/CN.6/2007/L.7).

2. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft report on its fifty-first session and entrusted the Rapporteur, in consultation with the Secretariat, with its completion.

Chapter VII
Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

1. The Commission on the Status of Women held its fifty-first session at United Nations Headquarters from 26 February to 9 March 2007. The Commission held 13 meetings (1st to 13th).

2. The session was opened by the Chairperson of the Commission, Carmen Maria Gallardo (El Salvador), who also made a statement.

3. At the 1st meeting, on 26 February 2007, the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, the President of the Economic and Social Council and the Executive Director of UNFPA addressed the Commission.

4. The Commission viewed a video message from the Executive Director of UNICEF.

B. Attendance

5. The session was attended by representatives of 45 States members of the Commission. Observers of other States Members of the United Nations and for non-Member States, representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and observers for intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organizations also attended.*

C. Election of officers

6. In accordance with paragraph 2 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1987/21, the officers elected to the Bureau of the Commission should serve for a term of office of two years. The following officers elected at the fiftieth session continued to serve during the fifty-first session:

Chairperson:
Carmen Maria Gallardo (El Salvador)

Vice-Chairpersons:
Adekunbi Abibat Sonaike (Nigeria)
Thomas Woodroffe (United Kingdom)

Vice-Chairperson-cum-Rapporteur:
Dicky Komar (Indonesia)

7. At its 1st meeting, on 26 February, the Commission elected Balázs Csuday (Hungary) as Vice-Chairperson to complete the term of office left vacant by the resignation of Szilvia Szabo (Hungary).

* http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/51sess.htm.

D. Agenda and organization of work

8. At its 1st meeting, on 26 February, the Commission adopted its provisional agenda and approved its organization of work as contained in document E/CN.6/2007/1. The agenda read as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century":
   (a) Implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives:
      (i) The elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child;
      (ii) Evaluation of progress in the implementation of the agreed conclusions on the role of men and boys in achieving gender equality;
   (b) Emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men;
   (c) Gender mainstreaming, situations and programmatic matters.
4. Communications concerning the status of women.
5. Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions.
6. Provisional agenda for the fifty-second session of the Commission.
7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifty-first session.

E. Appointment of the members of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women

9. Pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/27, the Commission established the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women. The following five members, nominated by their regional groups, were appointed:

Jennifer Feller (Mexico)
Jiakun Guo (China)
Janne Jokinen (Finland)
Patricia Chanda Chisanga Kondolo (Zambia)
Ivana Kožar (Croatia)

10. The Working Group held 4 meetings.

11. At its 13th meeting, on 9 March 2007, the Commission appointed Ivana Kožar (Croatia) and Carlos Enrique García González (El Salvador) to serve on the Working Group for the fifty-second session of the Commission. The appointment of the remaining three members of the Working Group was deferred to the fifty-second session of the Commission.

12. At the same meeting, the Commission decided that upon their nomination by their respective regional groups, candidates for membership on the Working Group would be permitted to participate fully in the work of the Working Group for the fifty-second session.

F. Documentation

13. The list of documents before the Commission at its fifty-first session is available at the following website: http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/51sess.htm.

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